



**JOSEPH A. RICE**  
MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR

For Immediate Release

Contact: Supervisor Joseph A. Rice

414-278-4243; E-mail: [Joseph.Rice@milwcnty.com](mailto:Joseph.Rice@milwcnty.com)

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE ABELE'S PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE EMS FUNDING MISGUIDED**  
*Proposal Would Harm Citizens and Municipal Relations*

**September 14, 2011...Milwaukee, WI** – Supervisor Joseph A. Rice today issued the following statement in response to County Executive Chris Abele's plans to end funding for Milwaukee County's coordinated paramedic services:

"The County's EMS system is an example of intergovernmental cooperation that works. These are the type of shared services that we ought to be encouraging rather than eliminating. Cutting off funding will simply shift responsibility to local municipalities and could result in decreased services at higher costs.

"What County Executive Abele fails to realize is that the Milwaukee County paramedic system plays a central role in the relationship between Milwaukee County and its nineteen municipalities. Not only does it manage and coordinate county-wide emergency medical services, but it is also responsible for managing medical and operational policies, ensuring standards of care, medical control, quality assurance, health information records management and emergency response education. It is an example of a cooperative program of shared services and shared costs that deliver overall savings to County taxpayers.

"Candidate Abele pledged to engage in partnerships and dialogues with local units of government to reduce costs and maintain the services our citizens expect. County Executive Abele appears to be taking a contradictory approach to an arrangement with municipalities that has been in place since 1975.

"Any debate over the shifting of costs and programs to municipal government ought to be the product of an open dialogue between governments and not be dictated. This unilateral attempt to shift costs not only does little to make programs more efficient or less expensive, but it also compromises the relationship between Milwaukee County and the 19 city and village governments. These intergovernmental alliances should be fostered and not ignored."

###